



Hypospadias

What You Should Know

Urology Care
FOUNDATION™
*The Official Foundation of the
American Urological Association*

What is Hypospadias?

Hypospadias is a condition present from birth. It is when the opening of the urethra (the hole that urine comes out of) is on the underside of the penis rather than the tip of the penis. Where the opening of the urethra is will decide how your child's care team will fix it.

How Common is Hypospadias?

While it is not easy to have an exact number, it is thought that hypospadias occurs in about 1 in 300 males in North America. If a brother or a father has hypospadias, the newborn boy has a 1 in 25 chance of having hypospadias.

What are Common Signs or Symptoms?

The main sign a boy has hypospadias is the opening of his urethra is found on the underside of his penis, as opposed to the tip. Other signs you might see are:

- a downward urine spray (in boys with more severe hypospadias, this may mean he has to sit down to urinate)
- a downward curve of the penis, which is called "chordee"
- an odd look of the tip of the penis

How is Hypospadias Treated?

Treatment will depend on the child's symptoms, age and general health. It will also depend on the severity of the condition.

Medicine will not fix hypospadias and a child is not expected to outgrow it. Some boys do not undergo any treatment because their condition is so mild. For others, surgery is an option.

Surgery is often done when the child is between the ages of 6-12 months. If your son has hypospadias, talk to a pediatric urologist to decide the best plan.

Questions to Ask your Doctor:

- Is surgery required?
- If so, which type of surgery is best for my son?
- Are you skilled with this type of surgery? If not, can you suggest someone?
- Is anesthesia used?
- How do I care for my son after surgery?
- How long will healing take?
- What is the cost of care (do you take insurance)?

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About the Urology Care Foundation

The Urology Care Foundation is the world's leading urologic foundation – and the official foundation of the American Urological Association. We provide information for those actively managing their urologic health and those ready to make health changes. Our information is based on the American Urological Association resources and is reviewed by medical experts. To learn more, visit the Urology Care Foundation's website, **UrologyHealth.org/UrologicConditions** or go to **UrologyHealth.org/FindAUrologist** to find a doctor near you.

Disclaimer

This information is not a tool for self-diagnosis or a substitute for professional medical advice. It is not to be used or relied on for that purpose. Please talk to your urologist or health care provider about your health concerns. For more information about urologic conditions, visit **UrologyHealth.org/Order** or call 800-828-7866.